

The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends. — James Monroe

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WASHINGTON, D. C.

OCTOBER 21, 1940

Axis Begins Drive To Subdue Balkans

Political and Military Pressure Is Used in Paving Way for Move Against British at Suez

RUSSIA AND TURKEY TENSE

But Moscow Shows Extreme Caution, Apparently Unwilling to Commit Itself at Present Time

In last week's issue of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER we discussed the possibility that Hitler is now ready to aid Italy in ousting Britain from the Mediterranean, and we indicated two ways in which he might do it. He might obtain the cooperation of Spain, and assault Gibraltar from the rear, or he might try to move through southeastern Europe and attack the British at Suez by way of Syria and Palestine. Since then, Spain has given no sign of being ready or willing to seize Gibraltar, but there has been a great deal of activity in eastern Europe.

German ships, troops, and aircraft have been moving through Hungary and down the Danube to Rumania, and the 400 or 500 British in the latter country are preparing for a hasty departure. At the same time another bitter quarrel has broken out between Hungary and Rumania on the question of treatment of minorities, Bulgaria has begun to mobilize, Italy has poised an army along the Greek border of Albania, and a general uproar has ensued. Most observers have taken this to mean that the Germans are getting ready for their drive into the Near East, and that the first step of this campaign is to achieve domination in the Balkans.

The Balkans

The term "Balkan" is a Turkish word meaning mountain, or mountainous. Today it is generally used to designate those countries lying within the stubby peninsula of southeastern Europe—Yugoslavia, Rumania, Albania, Greece, Bulgaria, and the European shore of Turkey. Hungary is not a Balkan state, but her affairs are so tied up with those of the Balkans that she is often treated as one. The Balkans are not, strictly speaking, mountainous throughout; nor are they, as some seem to believe, cut off from the rest of Europe by a range of mountains called the Balkans. At best it is a vaguely defined region slightly larger than France in area, containing more than 50,000,000 people of a half a dozen different religions and three times as many separate nationalities. In *Spotlight on the Balkans*, a recent publication of the Foreign Policy Association, P. B. Stoyan, himself a Serb, has characterized the Balkan area as follows:

A dramatic region, where countless wars have been fought or originated, the Balkans can boast of a landscape as varied as are its languages and customs. Level steppes, barren granite crags, fertile valleys, dark canyons, deep mountain forests, scalloped rocky shores follow each other in the view of the airplane traveler. Ruins of Roman baths, and imperial palaces, of Greek temples and theaters, of frescoed medieval monasteries, of crumbling feudal castles dot the Balkans next door to Gothic cathedrals, Moslem mosques, Napoleon's highways, modern office buildings—and hundreds of thousands of miserable peasant hovels.

The Balkan region used to be called "the powder keg of Europe," because so many serious disturbances flared up there. With the exception of the little mountain kingdom of Albania, which was seized by Italy in the spring of 1939, however, the Balkan

(Concluded on page 6)



MARKET PLACE IN A BALKAN CITY

THREE LIONS

Changing Your Mind

By WALTER E. MYER

Some people seem to think that a change of the mind is a sign of weakness. They boast of their fixed convictions, of the stability of their opinions. They take pride in their consistency. There is something to be said for them, of course, if they do not carry the idea of consistency too far. Certainly we would not want them to go to the other extreme, and change their minds at the slightest pressure. One whose views are too easily swayed is undependable. There is no stability about him. One never knows where to find him. His is a shallow mind and convictions do not root deeply in it. Every change is not movement in the right direction.

But while all change is not growth, all growth is change. A growing mind must be a changing mind. A person makes consistent progress only if he is unsatisfied with his ideas; if he is still searching for the truth; if he is ever seeking more information and if he changes his mind in the light of new evidence. One who takes too much pride in his opinions and who refuses to change them has ceased to grow. His mind has become stagnant. He is no longer obtaining an education. His ideas are not better than they were a year ago; they are just the same. His is a case of arrested development.

Most people are ready to admit all this. They say they are ready to change their minds if they have sufficient reason to do so, but they find occasion to change their minds only on unimportant questions. They hold to their old views on big issues—on questions of party politics, for example. All people do not follow that rule, to be sure. There are several million independent voters in the country. But most people seldom question the wisdom of the party alignments which they made early in life. This is but one of many examples of the stubbornness which keeps such great numbers of people from making the mental growth of which they are capable; from making the growth in ideas and opinions which they should make.

If you are poorly informed and have little confidence in your opinions, you will have an inferiority complex. You will be on the defensive. You will be afraid to announce a change of your views lest it be regarded as evidence of weakness; lest people see how unsupported your opinions really are. You will, therefore, hold stubbornly to your opinions. But if you are well informed, and have confidence in yourself; if you feel sure that your position is sound a great part of the time, you will not be ashamed to admit error now and then. You will not be afraid to announce a change of views. You will not hesitate to say, "I was wrong on that point." Your friends will still have confidence in you—all the more because they see that you are still a truth-seeker; that your mind is not stagnant; that you are still moving forward toward greater understanding and wisdom.

Boss Rule Issue Is Raised in Campaign

Willkie Charges Administration With Making Deal with Corrupt Local Machines

NEW DEALERS DENY CHARGES

But Machine Politics of Both Parties Dominates Government in Many Cities of United States

Among the issues which have been raised in the presidential campaign, that of machine politics has been hammered at time and again. Republican candidate Wendell L. Willkie has repeatedly rapped the Roosevelt administration for being supported by local political bosses whose tactics are frequently unsavory. Early in the campaign he flayed the Nash-Kelly machine of Chicago and the Hague machine of Jersey City, New Jersey. He has charged that the New Deal made an alliance with corrupt political bosses in the cities and that President Roosevelt has sought to perpetuate himself in office "through petty Hitler's right here in our own land." In a recent speech he attacked political bosses in general by saying:

I will go down the line for the right of every man to cast his vote—for me or against me. . . . We say, come out and vote as free men. Vote against us if you will, but vote the way you want and not the way some boss tells you to vote.

Important Issue

While the issue of machine politics and "boss rule" may be less dramatic than others that have been raised in this campaign, few are of greater importance. The quality of government suffers greatly if politics is dominated by unscrupulous political bosses, by men who have little concern for the public interest and good government but who regard politics as a business. Nor can the issue be brushed aside by saying that political machines do not exist. They are to be found in every large city of the country. Some of them are worse than others, but they are widespread.

The supporters of President Roosevelt do not deny the existence of political bosses and machines, but they claim that the Republican record in this respect is no better than the Democratic. Mr. Willkie himself has the support of Republican machines, they charge, which are as corrupt and unscrupulous as any which the Republican candidate has attacked so bitterly. The fact that the Republican machines have been less prominently in the limelight during recent years should blind no one to their existence. The Republicans have been out of office for eight years and the machines of the majority party are always more conspicuous than those of the minority party.

Moreover, the supporters of Mr. Roosevelt argue, the present administration has done more than any previous administration to break up political machines. It should not be forgotten that the President played an important role in fighting Tammany Hall, perhaps the most notorious of all political machines; that his administration waged a successful battle upon the Pendergast machine of Kansas City; and that it used its power to overthrow the machine of the late Huey Long in Louisiana.

Making allowances for exaggerations on both sides, it must be admitted that political machines do exist in both parties and

(Concluded on page 7)



BEFORE THE SHOT AT SARAJEVO

Archduke Franz Ferdinand and Duchess von Hohenberg leaving the Senate house in Sarajevo shortly before the archduke's assassination in 1914.

Historical Backgrounds

By David S. Muzzey and Paul D. Miller

The Balkans in European History

THE Balkans, once more figuring in the European struggle as Germany pushes down the Danube River and threats of an outburst loom in that region, have played an important role in history of the continent. They are among Europe's oldest nations and present the most confusing picture of mixed races, nationalities, and religions to be found anywhere on the continent. Within a region only slightly larger than the state of Texas there live nearly half as many people as in all the United



DAVID S. MUZZEY

States, six principal different religions, seven states, 18 races and nationalities. The conflicting interests of the major powers of Europe in the Balkans are as old as history itself. The spark that has started many wars, including the World War, has been set off in the Balkans. There have been struggles for domination between the East and the West, between the North and the South. As the Turks and Germans struggled for domination centuries ago, as the rival interests of Russia and England flared up in the Balkans in the nineteenth century, there are today sharp clashes between the powers over the Balkans. In the Balkans, more than any place else today, the interests of Germany, Italy, and Soviet Russia meet in head-on collision.

Turks Move In

The outstanding fact in early Balkan history was the struggle between the Turks and the powers of western Europe for domination. During the eleventh century, the Turks moved from southern Asia through Persia and succeeded in wresting Asia Minor from the Byzantine Empire. In 1354, they crossed over to the European side of the Dardanelles and threatened to overrun Europe. The year 1453 will always be remembered as an important date in European history, for it was then that the Turks succeeded in taking Constantinople, whence they moved steadily into the heart of Europe. By 1529 they reached the gates of Vienna.

It was the "historic mission" of the Habsburgs to prevent the Turks from piercing further into the heart of Europe and eventually to drive them back. The Habsburgs of Austria organized the small nations of the Balkans as a spearhead against the Turks. They "liberated" the Balkans from the Turks and put them under Habsburg protection.

But Austria was not the only power interested in domination of the Balkans. Russia, under Peter the Great, dreamed of

extending her influence to the Mediterranean by controlling the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus, the straits which join the Black Sea to the Mediterranean. It was Russia's "historic mission" to acquire these vital gateways from Turkey, and Russia engaged in bitter warfare with the Turks to achieve this objective. Her imperialistic ambitions were cloaked under the claim of protecting the Balkan Slavs.

British Interests

Nor were the great powers which were geographically adjacent to the Balkans the only ones interested in the region. Throughout the period leading to the World War, the old game of balance of power politics was constantly played by England in order to prevent the Balkans from falling under the domination of any single power. England saw Russia as a menace to her own interests, for the oldest land route to India passed through this region. Thus, when Russia threatened to subdue Turkey in the middle of the nineteenth century, the English rallied to the aid of the Turks in 1854-56 in the famous Crimean War. Thus, the Russians were prevented from realizing their "historic mission" of entering the Mediterranean region and becoming a rival of Great Britain.

But Russia was not the only menace to the British. In the decades preceding the World War, Germany loomed on the horizon as a threat to Britain. The Germans lined up with Austria-Hungary which threw the English into closer relations with the Russians. It was now Germany and not Russia that constituted the greatest menace to Britain. The Germans launched a far-reaching program of economic penetration of the Balkans. They established banks and industries and sent their agents throughout the entire region. In 1903, they obtained concessions from the sultan of Turkey to build the famous Berlin to Baghdad railroad. Germany's "push to the east" was on in dead earnest, and the British feared that it included more than economic control. They saw the specter of a vast German empire extending as far to the east as the Persian Gulf.

With the conflicting interests and the system of alliances in force, it is little wonder that the shot fired in the remote village of Serbia (present-day Yugoslavia) should set off the World War. The vast Austrian-Hungarian Monarchy was allied to the German Empire, both with ambitions in the Balkans. The Russians were tied to the British and French in the Triple Entente. When the Serbs declared war on Austria, Russia went to their aid, bringing into the war her allies, and the Germans joined the Austrians. Today the scenes have shifted, but the Balkans still remain a focal point of conflicting interests.

Our Neighbors -

THE evidence is all in; the arguments have been presented, and Judge Marshall is giving his instructions to the jury. "Each conclusion to which you come," he says, "must be based on evidence. You must never assume that something happened merely because you think it *may* have happened. There must be concrete evidence of the fact that it happened. Try to keep in your mind all the evidence on both sides of the case. Weigh every scrap of evidence which indicates that the accused is guilty. Then weigh all the evidence which indicates that he is not. Compare the two sets of facts. If the evidence indicating his guilt is preponderant or overwhelming; if it is much stronger than the evidence indicating that he is innocent, you should vote for conviction. If the evidence on the opposing side is about equal, you are to vote for acquittal, for a man is presumed to be innocent until he is proved guilty. But above all you are to remember that your decision is to be governed, not by your preconceived ideas or your 'hunches,' but by the evidence which has been placed before you. Forget your feelings, your emotions, your prejudices, and consider only facts in arriving at your decision."

It would be a good thing if Judge Marshall's instructions were followed, not only by this jury, but by all people everywhere; especially by those who are inclined to listen to gossip.



SADIE always speaks her mind very positively. She is certain that she is always right, and she expresses herself in such a way as to leave no chance for a difference of opinion. When she speaks her friends must either agree or quarrel. There is no middle ground. She expresses her views, not merely as her opinions, but as *facts*; as the *truth*. She never says, "What do you think?" She doesn't care what anyone else thinks. She is interested only in her own ideas and she expects everyone to accept them, or take the consequences.



Most people who talk with Sadie pretend to agree with her, in order to avoid a fruitless argument. When she asserts herself they say, "Yes, yes," as one would speak to a spoiled child, then go along, thinking as they did before. Sadie has very little influence and not many friends. Conversation with her is not a pleasant experience, and most

people avoid it whenever they can.

"HERE'S a book you should read, Dad," says Tom Boner. "I heard mother talking to you last week about your table manners. (Reported in THE AMERICAN OBSERVER, October 14.) Possibly she was a little rough on you, but she really did have a point. You must admit that you are slightly careless at times. I suppose all of us are. We need reminders about the best way of doing things."

"Come to the point, son," Mr. Boner replies. "Don't stand there lecturing me. Your mother doesn't need any help at that. You were speaking of a book, I believe. What about it?"

"That's the point," says Tom. "The book is *This Way Please—A Book of Manners*, by Eleanor Boykin. In our homeroom at school we have been getting together good books on manners, and this is one of the best of them. In clear, simple, interesting language it tells how one should act at the table, at parties, in the home, when traveling, and about everywhere else. One can't read this book without learning a great deal about how to get along pleasantly with other people. There is a great deal of good advice about conversation and practically all forms of behavior. This is a library copy that I have, but I think we should own one. If it isn't in the book store, you can get it from the publisher, the Macmillan Company, New York City, for only \$1.75."



"HAD to turn that man away empty-handed," says Mr. Goodman to his secretary. "He asked for a job, and very clearly he needed work. But I have nothing for him. There isn't a vacancy in our office. I suppose that is the answer he meets wherever he goes."



He tells me he has almost worn out the soles of his shoes going from office to office trying to find work so that he can support his family. I am terribly sorry about it, but what can I do, when I have no jobs to give?"

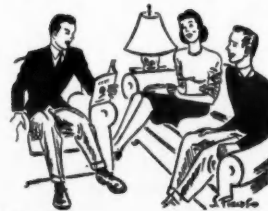
"Well, it means something that you are sorry about it, and that you don't blame the man for being out of work," his secretary replies. "At least you aren't like old Mr. Heartstone. I heard him say the other day that anyone who wanted work could get it if he tried. He said he had no sympathy with a person out of a job; that such a person should not have work relief, but rather, if he got anything, it should be in the form of outright charity; said the person receiving it should think of it as charity."

"Nothing could be more unjust than that attitude," declared Mr. Goodman. "If a man comes into my office asking for work and leaves without a job, I want him to go out, not ashamed, but with his head as high as mine is. Of course, there are people who do not want to work, but at the same time we know there are several million more workers in the country than there are jobs. Until we can find a way to give work to all, we should be very considerate of those who are not fortunate enough to have jobs."

"YOU can't tell who is a Fifth Columnist and who isn't these days, and I'm worried about it," admits Agnes. "Sometimes I suspect some of my neighbors. What are we to do about it?"

"Better find out what Fifth Columnists really are," advises Arthur. "It's dangerous to suspect everyone, especially when you don't really know what you're afraid of. You should read an article by Werner Guttman in the October *Survey-Graphic*. He answers the question, 'What is the Fifth Column?' and tells exactly what agencies are at work and how they operate. If you will read this article you will know what the Fifth Column really is, and you won't go around calling anyone a Fifth Columnist whose opinions you happen not to like."

"And then you should read the November *Survey-Graphic*, Agnes," Wilbur adds. "A number of writers will tell in that issue of the magazine how we can combat actual Fifth Columnists without doing an injustice to people who really aren't Fifth Columnists at all."





THE VETERINARIAN

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

• Vocational Outlook •

Veterinary Medicine

YOUNG men intent upon a professional career yet anxious to avoid the occupations that are patently overcrowded would be wise to give serious consideration to the field of veterinary medicine. It makes no pretense of offering fabulous opportunities. Instead, it gives the modest promise of stable employment and a comfortable income.

While many young lawyers, for example, find themselves struggling for a living even five years after graduation, young veterinarians have no difficulty getting themselves placed. Veterinary colleges report that every one of their 1938 graduates has, without exception, been placed in a job. The Department of Agriculture, the country's major employer of veterinarians, reports that during 1937 and 1938 every veterinarian who sought a job with the Department and had proper qualifications was engaged. And there is reason to believe that the demand for men in this profession has by no means slackened.

About two-thirds of the men in veterinary medicine are engaged in private practice, inspecting cattle on the hoof, treating animal diseases, and otherwise protecting the nation's livestock against injury and epidemic. The other veterinarians are employed by federal, state, and local agencies in research, teaching, and investigation. Incidentally, of the 12,000 veterinarians in the United States, about 2,000 have established themselves in urban areas where their practice is confined largely to the treatment and care of pets. This urban practice appears to be the most profitable of the field, drawing upon the work provided by the 40,000 professional dog breeders of the nation.

The earnings in veterinary medicine compare favorably with those in most other professions. The average veterinarian does not make quite so much as the doctor or the dentist, but he makes more than the average lawyer, engineer, or newspaperman. The most recent comprehensive survey of earnings was prepared by the American Veterinary Medical Association in 1935, when earnings were probably somewhat less than at present. At that time, the report shows, the average net annual income of veterinarians in private practice was \$6,980. The annual income of the other veterinarians was \$3,489.

There are 10 veterinary schools in the country, located in the following states: Alabama, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Washington. The tuition in these schools is moderate, ranging from only \$51 (for resident students) at Cornell University to \$260 at the University of Pennsylvania. It is thus possible at some veterinary schools to cover a year's complete expenses, including tuition, room, and board, for as little as \$400. This, in itself, should prove an inducement to students who would find the training in most other professions to be far more costly.

At one time, a high school diploma was sufficient for enrollment in a veterinary school. The standards have since been raised and all the approved schools now require at least a year of preprofessional college study. In this connection, it is important for students to remember that applications for admission to these veterinary schools far outnumber those accepted. Of the 2,500 applications submitted each year, only 650 are approved. Hence it is essential for the student who is earnestly interested in following this career to maintain high scholastic standards in school.

In most states the veterinarian must pass an examination before he is permitted to practice, though in a few states a diploma from an approved veterinary school is sufficient. Since the Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture is the largest employer of veterinarians, the following pamphlet would be of interest to students: "Bureau of Animal Industry of the U. S. Department of Agriculture—Its Establishment, Achievements, and Current Activities," by U. G. Houck. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

An Important Industry Develops Around Plastics Products in U. S.

DURING the worst of the depression, wise men maintained that even then, all over the country, the profitable businesses of the future were coming into being almost unnoticed. Hundreds of enterprises have since proved them right, and none more dramatically than those connected with the plastics industry.

Our word "plastic" comes from the Greek *plastikos*, meaning "fit for molding." The plastics used in manufacturing are synthetic materials which can be made to flow into a desired shape and retain it afterward. Such materials were not very important during the leanest of the depression years, but manufacturers saw in their color and their novelty new possibilities for stimulating sales. Research men were put to work, and sometime after 1935 it became apparent that the infant plastics industry had developed into a pretty husky child. Now the 10 plastics have increased to 20, and production has jumped from 127,000,000 pounds in 1935 to more than 300,000,000 in 1939. Germany and other metal-hungry nations have been pushing their plastics industries, too, but last year found the United States leading the world in tonnage and turning out \$500,000,000 worth of finished products.

Store counters everywhere are filled with plastics—ash trays, sun goggles, toothbrushes, kitchen spoons, and scores of other articles. Less in evidence are the industrial items which account for half of the total volume—such things as machine parts and electrical equipment. In the normal course of this promising new industry's expansion, the number of these products might be expected to increase rapidly, but today the process is being speeded up tremendously by rearmament. Plastics can be used in the making of gas masks, gunstocks, and hundreds of minor articles. Experiment promises to bring a great many other uses including—most important of all—the plastic plywood plane body which will drastically cut costs in the manufacture of aircraft.

The chief importance of the plastic lies in the fact that it is the ideal material for mass production. Once the master mold of hard carbon steel is made, the articles can be produced by the million and require only the slightest finishing. Furthermore,

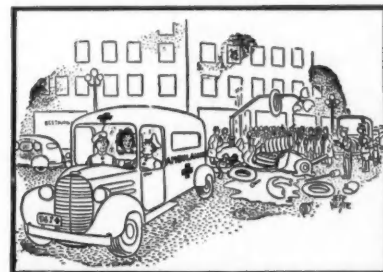
plastics can be pressed, rolled, sawed, and carved, as well as cast.

A second advantage of plastics is the variety they offer. Some are as transparent as glass. Some will stretch like rubber. There are plastics which can be sprayed as if they were lacquer. There are others which outwear steel, and still others lighter than aluminum.

Of course, these new materials have their disadvantages, too. So far no plastic has proved able to stand up under years of weathering. None can be shaped with the exactness which metal permits. None has the scratch resistance of plain glass. Not one, as yet, possesses the all-around structural strength of steel.

But these disadvantages may be overcome in the future. Competition is keen among the great producers, and their research workers are rapidly extending the frontiers of the industry. At least one important new plastic is developed every year, and each issue of the trade journal *Modern Plastics* lists 50 or more patents for new synthetics or adaptations of old ones. Experimentally they have been employed in many revolutionary ways. Their commercial use in the construction of plane bodies, automobile bodies, and even houses seems now to be only a matter of time.

♦ SMILES ♦



"NOW LISTEN, LADY—DON'T YOU TELL ME HOW TO DRIVE"
KEATE IN SATURDAY EVENING POST

Mess Sergeant: "What's the idea of taking toast out of the mess hall?"

Private: "I wanted to make some charcoal sketches, sir."
—SELECTED

A strip of green concrete in place of grass is laid down the middle of a Boston boulevard. A thing like this makes a dandelion stop and think.
—CHICAGO DAILY NEWS

Advice to after-dinner speakers: "If you don't strike oil in the first two minutes, you'd better stop boring."
—GRIT

"I thought you had thrown Fred over."
"Well, you know how girls throw."
—BREEZE

"What's become of the Hikers' Club?"
"Oh, it disbanded. It was getting too hard to persuade passing motorists to pick us up and give us a lift."
—GRIT

"Here's an item about a fellow who lives on onions alone."
"He should live alone."
—CAPPER'S WEEKLY

Tourist: "You say it was built during the Dark Ages?"
Guide: "Yes, and it's more than 1,000 years old. Take it from me, they don't build such ancient castles nowadays."
—SELECTED

"Sir, have you seen the new fountain pen? It is absolutely impossible for ink to escape from it anywhere."
"Huh. New! I've been trying to write with that kind of pen for years."
—BUFFALO EVENING NEWS

The man who toots his own horn soon has everybody dodging when he approaches.
—RAYS OF SUNSHINE

"Have you any references?" inquired the mistress.
"Yes, ma'am, lots of 'em," answered the prospective maid.
"Then why did you not bring them with you?"
"Well, to tell the truth, they're just like my photographs. None of them do me justice."
—GRIT

Information Test

Answers to the history and geography questions may be found on page 8. If you miss too many of them, a review of history and geography is advisable. Current history questions refer to this issue of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER.

American History

1. What country did the United States fight for two and a half years in the "Naval War of 1798"?
2. Who was the greatest of the American lobbyists in London before the Revolution?
3. What colony was the first ever subsidized by the British government?
4. What European war brought our first proclamation of neutrality?
5. In what part of America were the passengers of the *Mayflower* granted land before they sailed?
6. On the shore of what island was Columbus' *Santa Maria* lost?
7. What statesman was treated for a cold and, in the belief of medical men today, died from the treatment?

Geography

1. What country of poor peasants leads the world in the production of silver?
2. What part of the New World is used as a penal colony?
3. What city in the United States has its harbor 20 miles from its business center?
4. What country has an oil field in a lake?
5. Name a cotton-shipping port which has 52 miles of water front.
6. A stimulating drink is made from Brazilian holly. What is it?

7. What North American city is still a walled town?

Current History

1. Name several prominent political "bosses" in large American cities.
2. What are some of the principal methods used by political machines to control city government?
3. How does "boss rule" affect the federal government?
4. What are the principal conflicting interests of Germany, Italy, and Soviet Russia in the Balkans?
5. Name the countries which belong to the Balkan group. What is their combined population?
6. When was the city of Constantinople captured by the Turks?
7. What did Peter the Great regard as Russia's "historic mission" in the Balkans?
8. What reply did President Roosevelt make, in his Dayton address, to the formation of the Triple Alliance of Germany, Italy, and Japan?
9. What are the principal features of Finland's program of reconstruction?
10. How has Uruguay figured in the news recently?
11. How does veterinary medicine compare with law and medicine from the standpoint of employment opportunities and income?
12. To what extent have the land resources of the United States been wasted?

The Week at Home

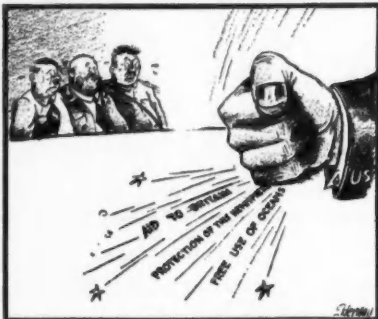
The President Speaks

President Roosevelt's Columbus Day speech, addressed to the people of North, Central, and South America, was delivered so calmly, so quietly, and so unexcitedly that many listeners may have missed the great significance of the President's words. But a careful reading of the address, however, discloses the importance of the pronouncement.

In this speech the President of the United States replied to the Three-Power Pact, signed recently by Germany, Italy, and Japan. These three nations warned America that if she went to war with any one of them she would have to fight all three. President Roosevelt replies: "No combination of dictator countries of Europe and Asia will stop the help we are giving to almost the last free people now fighting to hold them at bay."

The President is scornful of Nazi promises not to attack the Americas even though Europe is conquered. "History records," he says, "that not long ago those same assurances were given to the people of Holland and Belgium and Norway."

President Roosevelt declares that the United States, cooperating with the other American republics, will protect the Western Hemisphere, and in addition will protect the interests of the Americas in the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans. Such is the announced policy of the American government. And, as a means of protecting the Western Hemisphere, this country is helping England beat off the German attack and will continue to do so. For good or ill, this nation is committed by



ATTENTION!
ELDERMAN IN WASHINGTON POST

the President's speech to that course. Such a course seems the more unshakably fixed by the fact that continued assistance to England is pledged, not only by Mr. Roosevelt, but by his Republican opponent, Wendell Willkie.

The 1940 Session

The administration's desire to have Congress adjourn was thwarted by the fear voiced by Republicans and shared by many Democrats that voters would be angry if their senators and their representatives left the post of duty to participate in a political campaign. It was agreed, therefore, merely to recess for a large part of each week. This would give the members some days to themselves, but permit them to assemble quickly, without a presidential call, if an emergency

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GASOLINE FOR JAPAN

In Los Angeles harbor, California, 42,000 drums of gasoline—each drum holding 53 gallons of gas—were loaded on a Japanese vessel and sent to Japan. Unless relations between the United States and Japan improve, gasoline may be added to the embargo list.

should arise. It would seem that for all practical purposes the work of the session is finished.

A glance backward shows that the outstanding business of 1940 lay in the realm of national defense. Congress provided for peacetime selective service and the stricter control of aliens. It authorized the expenditure of almost \$13,000,000,000 for defense purposes. It increased government revenues through taxes on excess profits and through broadening the income-tax base and lowering exemptions.

But Congress concerned itself with matters other than preparedness, too. It voted large sums for agricultural relief. It enacted Senator Hatch's second "clean-politics" bill, forbidding state and city employees, paid wholly or partly from federal funds, to take part in any form of political activity. Two important regulatory measures were passed, also. One affected investment trusts, and the other modified the Interstate Commerce Act so as to bring water carriers under the same type of control as the railroads.

Typhus Vaccine

The last quarter of 1939 brought war to Europe and to the United States a traffic death toll well above that of the corresponding period of 1938. It may be pure coincidence, but some people believe that the effect of the war on the minds of American drivers and pedestrians is responsible for the increase in fatalities. They say there is evidence which indicates that business depression brings a higher accident rate, and they feel that the international situation might easily have the same effect.

Color is lent this idea by the fact that the increase has continued during the present year. In the first seven months of 1940, there has been a four per cent increase in pedestrian deaths and a six per cent increase in deaths caused by other types of accident.

The one bright spot in the picture is the indication that the death rate can be cut if people will make the necessary effort. Deaths do not increase in proportion to the increase in the number of miles driven. In 1938 the mileage figure was two per cent higher than in 1937, but a sharp reduction in accidents cut deaths 18 per cent. In 1939 travel increased six per cent, while deaths (for the year as a whole) remained the same. In the first seven months of 1940, mileage was up seven per cent and deaths five per cent. These proportions make safety engineers feel that their efforts have met with some success in the past and that a great deal more can be accomplished if drivers and pedestrians will only be more careful.

Typhus Vaccine

One of the most dreaded of war-fostered diseases is European typhus, sometimes called "jail fever" or "damp fever." It is spread by infected body lice and, though it is practically unknown in this country, it has again and again swept over eastern Europe. In the five years after the World War, millions of people there died of it.

The National Institute of Health at Hamilton, Montana, has developed in its laboratories a method of obtaining typhus vaccine in quantities large enough for general use. Unlike ordinary bacteria, the organisms which cause such diseases as typhus and Rocky Mountain spotted fever will breed only in living tissue. Research workers of the Health Institute found that eggs could be used to produce the bacteria. They infect with typhus a six-day incubated egg, and after four or five days it is so full of the deadly germs that enough vaccine to protect 300 or 400 people can be obtained from it.

In order to test its vaccine, the National Institute of Health shipped to Rumania enough to vaccinate 20,000 persons and Hungary enough for 2,500. In each village taken for the test, part of the population

was vaccinated and part was not, the object being to see whether the second group would develop many more cases of the disease than the first. Unfortunately, Rumania's recent losses of territory have complicated the experiment. But the Health Institute is continuing to ship its vaccine to Europe, and the experimental work will go on.

Mayor LaGuardia

A new chapter in what might be called "The Lives of Fiorello La Guardia" began last August when President Roosevelt asked New York's versatile mayor to head the United States section of the Canadian-

U.S. Joint Board on Defense.



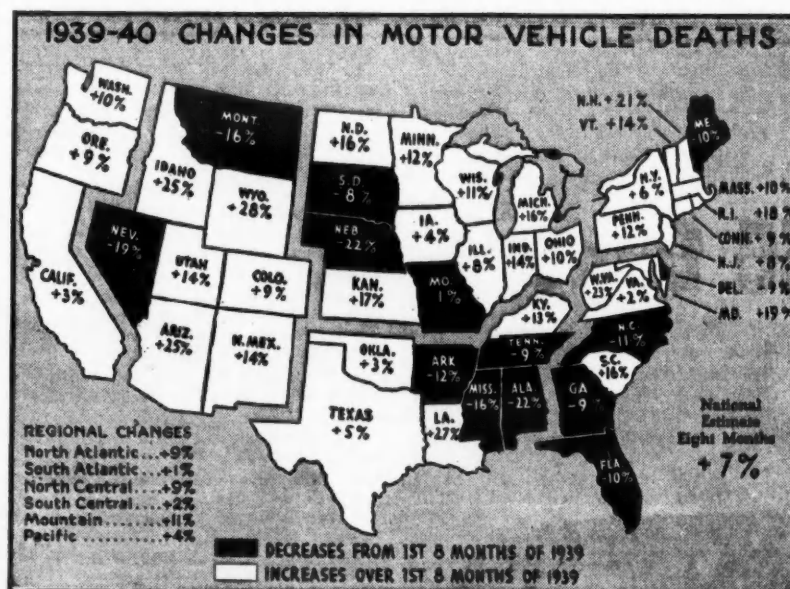
H. & E.
FIORELLO LA GUARDIA

Fiorello Enrico La Guardia, born in New York, December 11, 1882, spent his childhood on the Army posts at which his father, an Italian bandmaster, was stationed. When he was 19 he obtained a minor position in the consular service at Budapest, Hungary, but was soon promoted and sent to Italy. He resigned in 1906 and returned to New York, where he studied law at night and worked as an interpreter at Ellis Island during the day. By 1910 he had acquired a speaking knowledge of German, Croatian, French, Spanish, and Yiddish in addition to his Italian. In that year he was admitted to the bar, but before he hung out his shingle he changed his middle name to "Henry."

Entering New York politics as a Progressive Republican, he demonstrated at once his remarkable vote-getting ability and became the first Republican of his district to be elected to Congress. In 1917 he voted for war and then went to war himself. Too short for the officers' training camp at Plattsburg, he became a flying instructor and was ordered to Italy. He returned after the war with the rank of major, a number of decorations, and an Italian wife.

He was returned to Congress, but in 1919 he won election as president of New York's Board of Aldermen. The year 1921 brought him a long series of misfortunes. In that year he was defeated in the primaries, underwent a serious operation, and lost both his daughter and his wife. He fought his way back into Congress, however, and spent the next 10 years fighting nearly everybody there. The Democratic landslide of 1932 lost him his seat, but in 1934 he was elected mayor of New York.

Since that time neither he nor his city has known much rest. La Guardia drives his officials as he drives himself, lashing out at anyone who attempts to check his whirlwind course. His honesty and his achievements, dramatically publicized, have brought him such popularity as perhaps no other mayor of New York has ever known.



MOTOR VEHICLE DEATHS INCREASE AGAIN

PUBLIC SAFETY

The Week Abroad

Japan Reconsiders

A fortnight ago international tension in the Far East had mounted to the point where it seemed that only one more incident would be needed to begin serious trouble. Through utterances of highly placed officials, Japan had bluntly warned Britain that war would come if the Burma Road into China was reopened. The United States was similarly warned of serious consequences by implication if (1) we supported Britain in supplying the Chinese armies by sending materials over the Burma Road; (2) we attempted to move any part of our fleet to Britain's base at Singapore; and (3) we increased our help to Britain and thereby became involved in war with Italy or Germany.

As Britain and the United States refused to swerve from their course, and preparations were begun to evacuate American citizens living in the Far East, however, the tone of the Japanese press and Japanese officials began to soften at once. Foreign Minister Yosuke Matsuoka, for example, declared last week that the Triple Alliance, in which Japan recently joined Germany and Italy, was not directed against the United States, adding that Japan wished to avoid a conflict of any sort with this country.

The fact that the Japanese have adopted a more conciliatory attitude has not slowed up efforts to remove Americans from the Far East, however. A threatened clash between Japanese troops and Europeans in Shanghai has kept the situation tense. The dispatch of some of our biggest passenger ships to Far Eastern waters to take off Americans indicates that the evacuation is on in earnest.

Trial in Uruguay

Uruguay, which faces the Atlantic for 120 miles between Argentina and Brazil, is the smallest republic in South America. Actually it would require 45 Uruguays to cover Brazil. But despite its limited area, Uruguay has the good fortune to occupy some of the best land on the continent. From the purple-tinted grass of its rolling plains, which are broken only occasionally by clumps of trees along the banks of a stream, the country obtained its name, which is Indian for "purple land." Uruguay's climate is clear, dry, and healthy. Its 2,000,000 people are nearly all of European stock. They live chiefly by cattle and sheep raising, govern themselves well, and send their children to good schools. On the whole, Uruguay has been one of the soundest and most democratic states in South America.

Because it is small, because it contains many Germans, and because it is strategically located close to the German-populated regions of Brazil and Argentina, Uruguay has been subjected to intense pressure from Germany since the war in Europe began. Last winter it was forced to play

the role of unwilling host to the *Admiral Graf Spee* when that German warship sought refuge from some British cruisers. Later it developed that German embassy and consular officials in Uruguay were directing a far-flung Fifth-Column plot to overthrow the government and establish a German-controlled state which was not only to include Uruguay, but parts of Brazil and Argentina, too. When news of this plot leaked out, American cruisers were sent into Uruguayan waters, and the



"HOLDING A TRUMP CARD, MR. STALIN?"
LEWIS IN MILWAUKEE JOURNAL

government prepared to place eight German leaders on trial. A sharp warning from Berlin, however, frightened the government into dropping the idea.

The matter would probably have been allowed to remain dormant had not the accused Germans recently taken heart and brought libel suits against the prominent Uruguayans responsible for uncovering the plot. This was apparently the last straw, for the government has now reopened the whole question and placed the ringleaders on trial. This is the first important move any South American government has yet made against the German underground movement. It is therefore being watched with close attention in Latin America.

Warning in Bangkok

Thailand, formerly known as Siam, enjoys the distinction of being the only independent country in southeastern Asia. Left as a "buffer" state to separate British and French possessions in that region during the colonial scramble in the eighteenth century, it is a little smaller than France in area.

Thailand has long been one of the most peaceful countries in the world. Its some 15,000,000 Buddhist people are generally hospitable and unwarlike. They travel little and think of themselves more in terms of local communities than as a nation. What unity there is finds expression chiefly in their dancing, music, and in a very elaborate form of architecture which may be seen at its best in Bangkok, the capital.

Although the Thai—as the people are

known—have never been very fond of the Japanese there have been indications that they have been impressed by Japan's program for establishing a new order in the region, and by the slogan "Asia for the Asiatics." The extent to which the Thai have been swayed by Tokyo has probably been exaggerated, but that there has been some measure of cooperation between the Thai and the Japanese became evident recently when Thailand demanded certain strips of territory from French Indo-China just at the time the Japanese entered that colony. When Thailand began to move her army, trouble seemed probable.

Recently, however, the regents who are ruling Thailand until the 14-year-old, Swiss-educated King Ananda reaches his majority, received a warning which caused them to hesitate. It came from Washington, and it reminded the Thai that the United States opposes any change in the status quo in the Pacific. At the same time delivery was stopped on American-made aircraft ordered by Thailand. The warning has apparently had its desired effect, because the government of Thailand has now proclaimed that it has no hostile intentions toward Indo-China.

Recovery in Finland

In the deep snows and forests of the far north, Finland fought a valiant but hopeless war against the Soviet Union, last winter. Her prolonged and stubborn resistance undoubtedly softened the terms of Russia's peace, but Finland's losses were heavy just the same. The struggle cost the Finns 60,000 or more lives, one-tenth of their territory, and about \$400,000,000—a staggering sum for an agricultural state of only 3,600,000 people.

Since that war came to an end Finland has been all but forgotten by a world torn by other momentous events, but the entire country has united in the work of recovery. Having provided temporary shelters for half a million people who were forced to flee areas ceded to Russia, the government is now working out a long-range resettlement program. It is establishing 12 new towns, each housing 1,000 refugee families, and some 30,000 new farms—some out of newly cleared government land, and others out of land obtained by means of a special tax on large estates.

Finland's democratic political institutions have managed to weather the period of strain and crisis without much change. Parliament still continues to function, and political parties continue to debate their differences. Recently, however, Germany obtained the right to move her troops through Finland en route to Norway, and some of these troops have remained on Finnish soil, a fact which is causing anxiety in Russia. The possibility of a German-Russian clash in the Balkans is worrying the Finns a good deal.

Back to the Caves

More than two years ago, when the Czechoslovakian crisis threatened to ignite a European war, the question of digging deep bomb shelters under London was raised in the British parliament. The suggestion was rejected by Sir John Simon, then minister of home security, on the ground that they would require "several months" to construct. About a year later, when war actually began, the suggestion was made again and was turned down by Simon's successor, Sir John Anderson, on the same grounds.

In place of the deep bomb shelters (such as have been built in Berlin), British factories began mass production of corrugated iron sheets which could be sunk into the ground, fastened tightly together, and which would shelter several people against splinters, falling walls, and bombs exploding at distances of 50 feet or more. Known as Anderson shelters, these little "igloos" of sheet iron have been built in many back yards and gardens.

When the Germans began their mass air attacks on London and other big British



BANGKOK

Architecture takes strange shapes in the buildings of Thailand's capital.

cities, a month and a half ago, however, it was discovered that not only were deep shelters against heavy bombs lacking, but the production of Anderson shelters was also inadequate. Lacking adequate shelters above or below ground, weary Londoners began to spread out their cots and mattresses on the platforms of subway stations. At first London authorities tried to prevent this, since it clogged the movement of traffic. But the rain of heavy bombs continued to drive citizens underground. Last week London city officials decided to turn over one entire main line of the London subway system (known in England as "the Underground") to bomb refugees.

Premier Prince

When Japan invaded China, in July 1937, her highest political post—that of premier—was held by a young man named Prince Fumimaro Konoye, who remained



PICTURES, INC.
FUMIMARO KONOYE

in power for nine months. When Japan took an almost equally important step, quite recently, and joined in an alliance with Germany and Italy, it was also under a government headed by Prince Konoye. It is a curious fact that these two historic moves should have been

made under the leadership of a man who, of all Japanese premiers of the last decade, seems the least bellicose, the least sinister, and the most "western."

Konoye is the eldest son of a wealthy titled Japanese family. His education was of the best Japan could offer. When he was graduated from the Tokyo Law School, the young prince pondered abandoning his titles and moving to America, but he gave up this idea to become secretary to Prince Saionji, the most famous of Japan's "elder statesmen." He accompanied the old prince to the Peace Conference of Versailles, after the World War, and then entered the House of Peers as a liberal. Konoye became known in the United States when he came here six years ago for the double purpose of executing a goodwill mission and of visiting his son at Princeton. After this visit Konoye's popularity arose quickly in Japan, apparently because he was the only man able to obtain the support both of the army and the businessmen.

In recent months, Konoye has been drawing up a program which is intended to change Japan into a totalitarian state, in the German-Italian sense of the word. In doing this he apparently has the support of a powerful army clique, and a number of Japanese financiers. Konoye himself has few of the earmarks of a dictator, oddly enough. In contrast to the stout, loud-voiced military advisers around him, he likes golf, likes to get up late, is rather susceptible to colds, and has trouble getting to sleep nights. His personal popularity seems to be great, particularly among the young people of Japan.



THE SHELTER WHICH HAS SAVED THOUSANDS OF LIVES

Many people in England take refuge in small, steel shelters, known as Anderson shelters, whenever air-raid signals are given. The Anderson shelter has proved a signal success.

Hitler Moves Into Southeastern Europe

(Concluded from page 1)

states managed to escape involvement in the present conflict until very recently. There are at least two reasons why the Balkans have been so fortunate. For one thing, these states occupied the only section of Europe where the interests of Russia, Germany, and Italy overlap and sometimes clash. For another, Hitler has needed all the agricultural and industrial products the Balkans could deliver to keep his factories going and his people fed while war raged in western Europe. Thus it has been in the interests of Germany to keep peace there, both for economic and political reasons. Russia and Italy seem to have agreed.

So long as the Balkan peace lasted, Germany was able to get the oil which she needs from Rumania, the grain, cereals, and other foodstuffs from the plains of Hungary and Rumania, timber from the Balkan forests, some copper, antimony, chrome ore, textiles, and about two-thirds of the bauxite she needs for the manufacture of aluminum. In normal times Germany takes nearly half the exports of the Balkans. Since the war began she has been taking considerably more, but it is hard to say just how much more, in the absence of reliable figures.

Change of Plans

But things have not gone quite so well as Hitler has wished, in that area. The war had been in progress only a few months when it became apparent that even if Germany were able to double her purchases in the Balkans (thus securing about a quarter of all her needs abroad), she would be unable to bring them to Germany unless something drastic were done to improve the transportation systems of southeastern Europe. There was a shortage of freight and tank cars, barges and river steamers.

Moreover, the Balkans were also becoming restless. Hungary could not understand why, if Germany could tear up the Treaty of Versailles, she could not tear up the Treaty of Trianon, under which she lost most of her lands. So she began pressing demands on Rumania. Bulgaria and Russia promptly took up the cry, and also demanded lost lands. The final upshot was that a great many men were kept under arms in all Balkan states, and that Rumania has been partly partitioned among Hungary, Russia, and Bulgaria. Nor has that settled matters. Hungary and Rumania are now bitterly accusing each other of brutality in treatment of its respective minority group, and both have appealed to Berlin and Rome to settle the matter. With so many men now mobilized, the Balkans are unable to produce what Hitler wants them to produce, and German dissatisfaction is great.

But with all this confusion, the Balkans might still have been spared if Hitler had been able to carry out his intention of invading England before the end of September. The brunt of the fighting would then have fallen in the west, and the Balkans might have been let alone to produce what they could. Since Hitler has apparently decided to help his partner, Mussolini, in driving Britain from the Near East, however, the Balkans find themselves in the track of the storm center. The only practicable route between Germany and the Near East lies through the center of the Balkan region. If Hitler is to move his forces over this route, he will have to persuade the Balkan states to join him, or crush them, first. Having seen what happened to France, the Balkans as a whole are not likely to resist.

In opening a path through the Balkans to the Near East, the Germans have already made a good start. In aiding Hungary to retrieve lost territories from Czechoslovakia, Poland, and Rumania, Hitler was able to put Hungary in his debt, and secure a dominant position in that small state. This position in Hungary permitted his

recent move against Rumania. First, Hitler waited until Hungary, Russia, and Bulgaria had taken large strips of land from the Rumanians, and then, when Rumania was seriously weakened by loss of land and population, and by disorders caused by the pro-Nazi Iron Guards within, he recently demanded and got important concessions. Rumania has agreed to permit German troops and aircraft to enter her territory, and to permit German naval craft to use bases on the Black Sea.

With Hungary and Rumania under his control, Hitler has now opened a wide path

if Greece turns, Yugoslavia, the largest and strongest of the Balkan states, will be completely surrounded by Germany, Italy, and their satellites. Under such circumstances, resistance would be futile. Thus, one by one, the Balkan states have fallen and are falling into the lap of the Axis.

This leaves Turkey as the one big obstacle in the path of a German drive through the Balkans, across the Bosphorus, and through Syria and Palestine to Egypt. Turkey is an ally of Great Britain, and has long been a friend of Bulgaria and the Soviet Union. As we pointed out last

So far, Moscow has maintained a mysterious and tight-lipped silence on the whole affair. The only possible clue to the stand of the Kremlin was seen by some in a book review in *Pravda*, an official Moscow daily, which suggested that all good communists should read the memoirs of Bismarck, the famous "Iron-Chancellor" of Prussia who favored Russo-German co-operation.

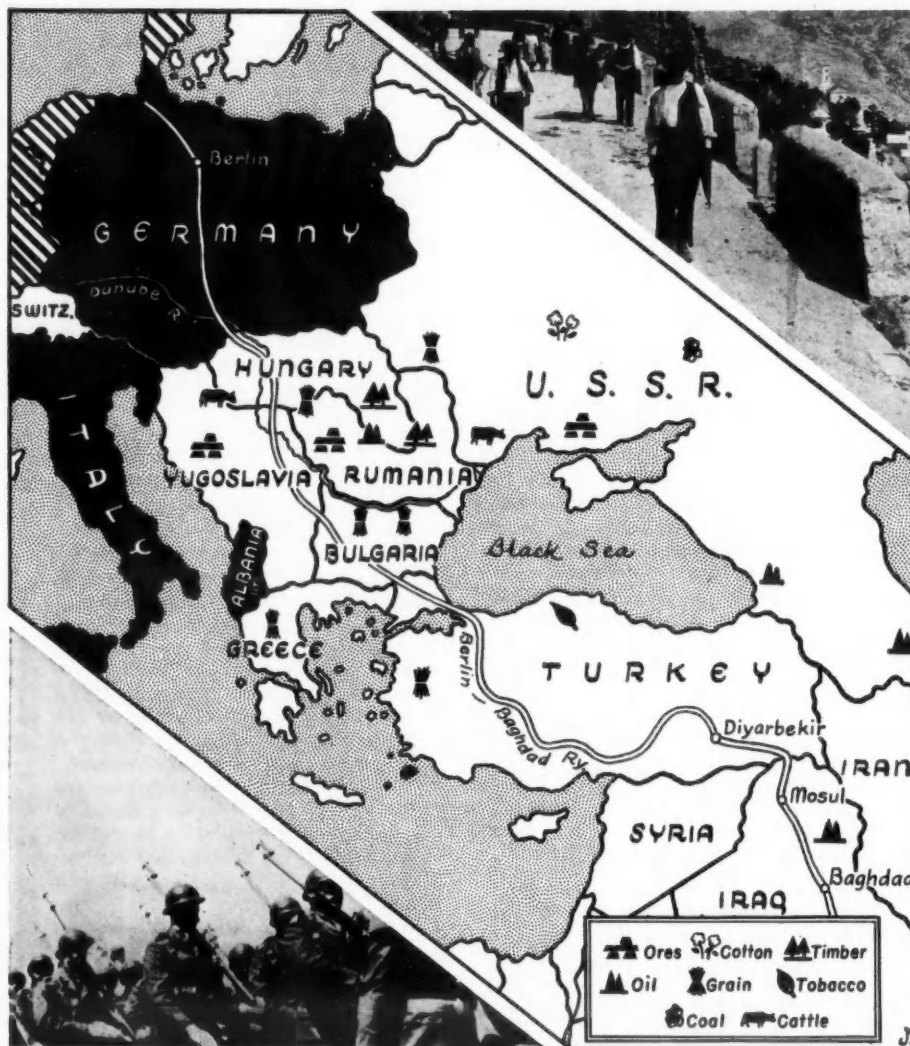
But Bismarck, it is significant to note, specified that Germany should be willing to give Russia complete control of the Black Sea in return for support in other parts of Europe. And this, perhaps, is the key to the whole question, for the Black Sea region is of tremendous importance to Russia. The Black Sea, first of all, is the only warm-water outlet of the Soviet Union. A very large part of Russia's sea-borne commerce with the outside world moves through the Black Sea and passes through the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles into the Mediterranean. Now that Germany has closed the Baltic, Russia must depend on the Black Sea for all her out-bound commerce save the trickle which moves through the Arctic ports of Murmansk and Archangel, or that which moves all the way across Asia by rail to the Pacific.

Black Sea Area

This is not the only importance of the Black Sea in Russian eyes, however. Any population or economic map of Russia will show a heavy concentration of people and resources in the regions north and east of the Black Sea. Five big rivers, the Danube, the Dniester, the Dnieper, the Don, and the Kuban, empty into the Black Sea along the Russian shore, and another, the great Volga, is connected with it by a canal. Between the eastern end of the sea and the Caspian lies a narrow mountainous isthmus containing huge deposits of manganese, and the Baku oil fields, second in richness and productive capacity only to the fields of the United States. To the northeast, in the famous Don Basin, is to be found the greatest single industrial area in Russia—the chief coal and iron mines, smelters, foundries, rolling mills, blast furnaces, and manufacturing plants are located here or nearby, in addition to mercury and copper deposits, glass, pottery, and textile plants. Just to the west, along the Dnieper are the hydroelectric plants of which the Soviets are so proud, and more factories. The Ukraine, which contains a good part of this industrial area, is the most densely populated of the Soviet republics, containing 32,000,000. It is also the Soviet "breadbasket," producing quantities of grains, corn, sugar beets, and other products.

The Soviets, therefore, have good reason for alarm at seeing Germany on the shores of the Black Sea, particularly in view of the warning statement in Hitler's *Mein Kampf* that "when we speak of new lands in the east, we think first of Russia and her border states." It has been hinted that the Axis and Japan have allotted "living space" to Russia in Iran and Afghanistan, but such would be a poor reward for loss of security in the Black Sea.

While not committing itself officially, the Soviet government has already given indications that it considers the matter to be very serious. As we go to press there are reports of feverish military preparations along the Soviet-Rumanian border, of Rumanian ships sunk by Soviet warships, and of a forthcoming four-way conference between Russia, Turkey, Greece, and Yugoslavia. These reports have not yet been confirmed. If Russia should decide to make a stand against Germany's push to the east, it is possible that Greece and Yugoslavia may take heart too, thus widening the front and changing the picture considerably. That is why so many eyes are now fixed on Moscow.



THE WAR MOVES INTO THE BALKANS

all the way to the Black Sea. But his Balkan drive is not expected to stop there. Bulgaria, the little kingdom of 6,000,000 peasants long believed friendly with Russia and Turkey, is now showing signs of willingness to cooperate with Germany. Like Hungary, Bulgaria is beholden to Germany for a piece of Rumania's territory, and it may be also that Hitler has promised King Boris that he will do what he can to see that the Bulgars are given a corridor through Greece to the Aegean Sea and the Mediterranean in return for Bulgarian support.

Greece and Yugoslavia

This would not be surprising, because Greece is one of the states Hitler and Mussolini are anxious to frighten away from sympathy and cooperation with Britain. Greece is small, poor, and already under heavy strain. Italy has been menacing the Greeks for some time by backing the demands of her Albanian subjects for territory in northern Greece. A Greek cruiser was torpedoed, and a Greek ship bombed, not long ago, under circumstances which, although mysterious on the surface, have been generally interpreted to indicate Italian intimidation of little Greece. With the German and Italian press clamoring for a showdown, and with Italian troops on her border, Greece is already thoroughly frightened. Her army is small and she is unable to count on much help from the British. Her acquiescence to Axis demands, therefore, is regarded as almost inevitable. And

week, she has consistently opposed Italy in the Mediterranean, and turned a deaf ear to German claims in the Balkans.

It was natural, therefore, that experts looked to Turkey immediately when Hitler began to move into Rumania. Turkey's position was stated briefly over the radio from Ankara. The Turkish general staff, the radio announced, stated that if Germany was moving southeast with the idea of striking into Syria, she would find 2,000,000 Turkish bayonets in her path. Whether the Turks can swell their present standing army of 300,000 men to 2,000,000 is doubtful, but it is generally believed that Turkey's armed forces are not to be taken lightly. Observers in general, however, were more interested in another angle of the matter. When Turkey issued that warning to Germany, was she speaking for herself alone, or for Russia also?

It is not believed that the Turks would dare to take such a stand unless sure first that they had the support of the Soviets as well as of the British. Turkey's geographical position exposes her to the influence of these two countries. On the one side Russia dominates the Black Sea approaches to Turkey, and on the other the British are in command of the eastern Mediterranean and the Near East. Since the World War, therefore, the Turks have modeled their policy after that of the Soviet Union—even to the point of copying Russian economic planning methods—and have been mindful of Britain's strategic strength in the Near East.

The Role of the Boss in American Politics

(Concluded from page 1)



AND THERE ARE MORE LIKE HIM
MESSNER IN HARTFORD TIMES

that, to a certain extent, it is a case of the pot and the kettle. The Roosevelt administration does have the support of several political machines throughout the country, machines which are offensive to all who are interested in good government. Mr. Willkie is also supported by Republican bosses and machines whose tactics are equally offensive. But to admit the existence of machines and bosses is not to solve the problem; let us, therefore, look into the workings of political machines in this country.

The Political Boss

First, what is meant by a political "boss"? Claudius O. Johnson, in his *Government in the United States*, gives us an excellent definition of the political boss and the role he plays in our political life:

Some leaders who dominate the party in a state, county, or city, and who are considered not overly scrupulous in their methods, are called bosses. It is not easy, perhaps impossible, to distinguish between a boss and a leader; for the boss is simply a type of leader, and a great deal of his technique is similar to that of the leader. Bosses are supposed to rule by secret and corrupt means; to employ violence and trickery; to strive for power for its own sake or for financial profit; and to make no moral or intellectual appeal to the voters. But there are bosses and bosses. Some are certainly not personally corrupt or violent; others on occasion make a moral or intellectual appeal. Many of them may "work for their own pockets all the time"; but others hold the place because they enjoy the eminence of their position—love to "see themselves pass by." Yet it is fair to say that some leaders have several of the unethical characteristics mentioned above and that the term "boss" as used in common parlance may be appropriately applied to them.

The political boss may or may not hold public office. He may be the mayor or the governor, or he may operate behind the scenes. In either case, he is head of the party organization in his city or state. It is he who gives the orders, controls the machines, and pulls the strings. The members of the party organization look to him for direction and leadership. He is ordinarily the chairman of the local Democratic or Republican committee. He may be a member of the national committee.

In order to maintain himself in power, the political boss must have an organization of henchmen who are personally loyal to him. They are the leaders of the various districts and wards and election precincts. These party leaders and captains and professional political workers are ready at all times to do the boss' bidding. He gives the order; they fall in line. On election day, they get out the vote. They see to it that a sufficient number of people vote in the primary elections to control those

party elections. If the local machine wins the primary elections, or elections within the party, its candidates will be nominated. Thus when election day comes around, the voter has a choice between the candidate of the local Democratic machine and the candidate of the local Republican machine.

Political bosses are able to keep themselves in power because they are able and willing to bestow favors upon people in the community. Party machines feed upon favors—upon jobs and numerous services performed. The local captains do all sorts of things for people living in their precincts. A good many of them are placed on the city pay roll. Jobs are given out on the police force or fire department or in the street-cleaning department. There are a number of higher clerkships. City pay rolls may contain cuspidor-cleaners who draw a fancy

salary. There may be a "foreman of vacuum cleaners" and countless other local officials. Scores of jobs are handed out as political favors and those who hold them form the backbone of the local machine.

But it is not only by means of jobs that the boss maintains his rule. The job holders form the hierarchy of the machine and they in turn bestow favors upon the people in their neighborhood in return for support at election time. Dayton David McKean, in his recent book, *The Boss*, outlines some of these activities. While his book discusses the technique of the Hague machine in particular, the same methods are used by other political machines:

The men and women in this hierarchy do all the favors that Tammany and every other machine has traditionally performed, and, in return, they are themselves on the public pay roll. They give out Christmas baskets, represent their people in attempts to get on relief or on WPA, often get jobs for them in private employment, stand between them and the police in cases of minor law violation, provide social centers in the ward, district, and racial clubs, and render them a thousand and one other little services every day in the year. This is real work, 24 hours a day. The Hague organization is not unique in performing it; but the number of people engaged in proportion to the population, and the efficiency with which it is done, make Jersey City accomplishment notable. When a person moves to Jersey City his furniture van is often not unloaded before the block or district leader calls to see if there is anything he can do. Has there been any trouble about getting the water turned on? He will see to it at once. Has the telephone company been slow in connecting the telephone? He will get that done immediately—and he does. Has the post office been notified to deliver mail? He will be glad to do so—and the mail comes on the next delivery. Is there anything else? Be sure to let him know if there is. And may he call some evening in the near future to get better acquainted and to discuss introducing the newcomers in the neighborhood, at clubs, in churches? All this service produces spectacular results on the first Tuesday after the first Monday every November.

How do the machines get enough money to carry on all these activities? One source of income which yields considerable sums are the "contributions" which are paid by those who have been given jobs. There may be "two-per-cent clubs," or "three-per-cent clubs," the members of which consist of those who have received jobs as political favors. While a member may make his contribution grudgingly, he nevertheless makes it for fear of losing his job. Moreover, most of them feel that they can afford to do so because they make more than they could in any other type of employment.

Where Money Comes From

Few political machines make a public accounting of their financial transactions. Some of them handle all their transactions on a strictly cash basis, rather than by check, in this way avoiding the possibility of being checked up on. The machine may receive a fee from a building concern which has received a contract for construction. The dozens of people who benefit financially from the activities of the machine feel it their "duty" to make contributions to the machine's coffers. Investigation after investigation has revealed that the sums which flow into the hands of the political machine frequently reach staggering totals.

When election day comes along, the well-greased political machine swings into perfect action. All the workers have their tasks assigned and they perform them with consummate skill. Their job is to get the voters to the polls. They will provide cars and drivers to take the voters to the polls. The machine will provide women to take care of the children while mothers vote. Earlier they have seen to it that the voters have registered properly and have participated in the primary elections.

Occasionally, the voters of a city will rise up in rebellion against the political machine. They will organize themselves, put up their own candidate, and launch an effective campaign that will overthrow the regular machine. But such a thing does not frequently happen. The secret of the success of machine politics is their organization and their activity. A majority of the voters in a community may not favor the machine, but they will not bestir themselves to act. They will not vote in primary elections. They may not even participate in general elections. The result is that the machines are able to obtain a majority of those who vote. Their greatest asset is the lethargy of the general run of citizens; those who want good government but who are unwilling to work for it; those who have no personal interest in obtaining jobs or other political favors. Unless and until the great majority of voters will act vigorously, political machines will remain in power.

Frequently, the citizens of a community

are blinded to the evil effects and the high cost of boss rule by certain of the constructive achievements. A boss-ridden city may have an excellent record in certain lines. It may, for example, have good hospital facilities and provide adequate health services for its citizens. Or it may achieve distinction in dealing with such problems as juvenile delinquency, traffic, or even crime. It does not hesitate to remind the citizens of its accomplishments in these fields and to compare them with those of other cities. It will play upon the feelings of civic pride in the community and thus make the people feel that they are well governed. But the political machine will conveniently ignore or distort the facts with respect to its inefficiency and corruption. It will say nothing about the high cost of government in the community, of the waste that could be eliminated.

The whole nation is affected by the cor-



PEOPLE MUST EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT TO VOTE, AND MUST VOTE THEIR CONVICTIONS, IF WE ARE TO HAVE GOOD GOVERNMENT

rupt or inefficient government of cities and towns. Local bosses bring pressure to bear upon the federal government. A man, in order to be elected president or senator or congressman, cannot afford to defy the local machine without running the risk of defeat. If a president defies the local political organization, he cannot carry that city unless he is able to muster sufficient strength among the independent voters. Few men have ever been elected to the presidency without the support of the local machines of their party which operate in cities throughout the country.

A National Problem

National politics cannot rise much above its source, which is the cities and towns and villages and counties of the land. If democracy in the nation is to be improved, the good citizens of every section must improve it in their communities. They must get out and vote in primary and general elections. They must organize themselves to defeat corrupt machines. They must work as hard for clean, efficient government as selfish and lawless persons work for dishonest government. They must not become cynical and take the attitude that nothing can be done to improve the quality of government. They must shake off their lethargy and consider that they have a personal interest in politics, an axe to grind on behalf of good government.

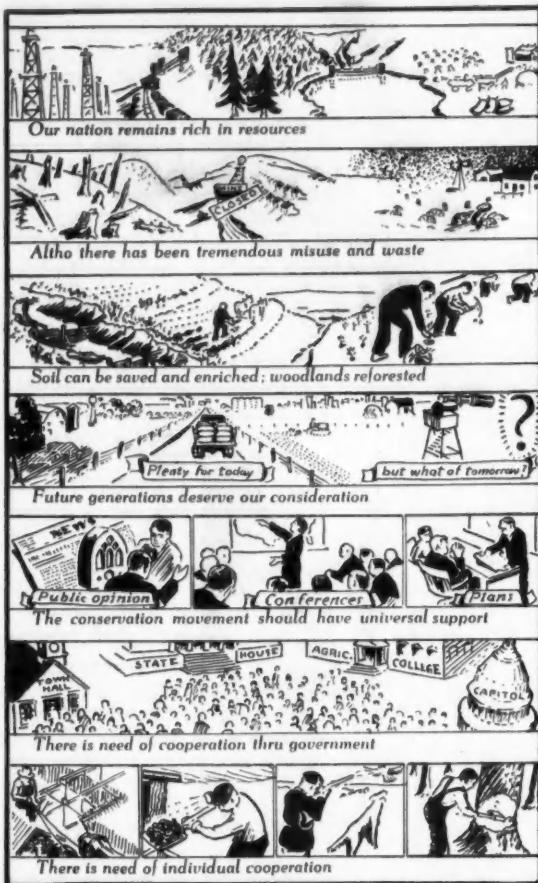
While there are certain things that the federal government can do—such as insisting that local political organizations obey all federal laws and punishing offenders, the main responsibility rests with the citizens of each community. So long as a large proportion of people remain indifferent toward public problems; so long as they refuse to bestir themselves, to study and act upon the problems facing their communities and the nation, corrupt political machines will continue to flourish in the United States.



BOSS CONTROL WOULD DIMINISH IF PEOPLE TOOK A GREATER INTEREST IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS



From Knowledge to Action



SAFEGUARDING NATURAL RESOURCES

NEA

Our Natural Resources

DURING the last few weeks, we have given on this page the background material for a number of the topics which are to be discussed throughout the country during American Education Week. Last week, we considered the problem of conserving our human resources and discussed certain trends in the growth and character of American population. Closely akin to the subject of the conservation of our human resources is that of conservation of our natural resources. We present here a number of the outstanding facts relative to this topic. They are taken from the National Education Association's booklet, "Education for the National Defense":

The United States Is Wealthy. Our country occupies not more than 6½ per cent of the land surface of the world and has only 6½ per cent of the world's population, but it possesses 45 per cent of the world's wealth. In its treasury is 60 per cent of the world's monetary gold. Of the annual world supply of oil it produces 62 per cent; of iron, steel, copper, lead, zinc, and coal, 33 1/3 per cent; of cotton, 50 per cent; and of wheat, 20 per cent. Our nation's wealth enables it to consume 45 per cent of the world's tin; 56 per cent of its rubber; and 72 per cent of its silk. Of the 43,000,000 automobiles in the world, the United States has 29,000,000. Of the 41,000,000 telephones, the United States has 20,000,000.

There Has Been Great Waste. Wise use is proper; waste is not. Nearly half the original soil fertility of the nation has been lost. The National Resources Board estimates the annual net loss to be 4,000,000 tons of nitrogen, 31,000,000 tons of potash, 39,000,000 tons of calcium, and 222,000,000 tons of organic matter. No more than one-tenth of the virgin forests now remain. In 1938 forest fires burned over an area as large as the state of Arkansas. On the average, timber crops ripen only once a century. Similarly, we have little virgin grassland left. Animal life has been greatly reduced. The percentages of other resources exhausted run about as follows: iron, 29 per cent; gold, 80 per cent; oil,

55 per cent; anthracite coal, 23 per cent; bituminous coal, 1 per cent; saw timber, 76 per cent.

Conservation Can Be Effective. There is still time to save our remaining resources from waste, to utilize them more wisely, and to rebuild those which it is possible for man to replace. Soil and timber can be replaced even though it is a long and arduous process. Techniques of conservation are well developed. Universal application of them is needed.

Government and Conservation. Through the development of agricultural colleges, forest services, the department of agriculture, and state, regional, and national conservation and planning agencies, much progress has been made in the development of conservation techniques. Other governmental agencies have been established to require reasonable conservation measures as in the coal and iron industries where operators are no longer permitted to mine only the rich veins.

The Individual and Conservation. But, in the end, individuals will save or bankrupt America. The farmer with his plow, the miner with his modern equipment, the fisherman and the hunter with their instruments and skills, the lumberman with his modern logging equipment, the capitalist with his money, and all who vote and share in the shaping of public opinion, have a responsibility to help safeguard natural resources, to recognize that lands and forests are not the privilege of this generation alone. Education for conservation is a vital task of the schools.

Schools and Conservation

Pupils Learn About Our Nation's History. Beginning with the early grades and continuing through high school and college, pupils learn the story of the United States; how the early settlers pushed westward ever seeking and finding new resources; about the new problems our diminishing resources bring to the nation.

Pupils Learn About the Resources of Our Nation Today. They find that the United States is the wealthiest nation in the world even though many of our valuable resources have been used or wasted. They learn that there is an abundance of goods to provide all the people with the material needs of life.

Pupils Learn of the Waste of Resources. Much of the history of the United States is a story of shameful waste of natural resources. Pupils learn how the land was exhausted as the virgin grasses were skimmed off, leaving the less fruitful soil loose from the plow, ready to be blown or washed away. They learn that the virgin forest lands of the country are almost completely gone and that there has been all too little replacement. Similarly, they discover that mineral resources have been wasted.

Pupils Learn That Resources Can Be Saved. They learn that despite great losses, we are still a wealthy nation in natural resources. They find that there are ways to save and enrich the soil. Agricultural education in rural schools stresses the techniques of soil conservation. Pupils learn that forests can be replenished even though

the process is a slow one, a hundred years or more being required to replace a forest. They learn that the people, through government action, have taken steps to see that our remaining natural resources are used with care so that the supply will last as long as possible, pending the time when substitutes may be found in the laboratories of scientists.

Pupils Acquire the Spirit of Conservation. Through the schools and other agencies, the facts and the spirit of conservation are being instilled in the minds and hearts of succeeding generations of young American citizens. Conservation is the only way to save the nation from future decline. It is as much the concern of city as of rural people. The conservation movement must increase in power to the end that our nation may not go down, as have many in the past, because its substance has been used up.

Pupils Carry Out Conservation Projects. An increasing number of schools carry out practical conservation activities such as reforestation, establishment of bird sanctuaries, and soil erosion projects.

University Contributions. The American conservation movement found leadership in the beginning through the foresight and courage of a few. In public life and in the universities of the nation were men, devoted to the public welfare, who saw the need of conservation and of the development of conservation techniques. The leadership of the universities in awakening public opinion, in pioneer research in the techniques of conservation, and in field demonstration of these techniques has been invaluable.

Knowledge to Action

If you are interested in the conservation of natural resources, your first task is to get at the facts; all the facts about the country's resources and the use to which they are put, which you can find. One cannot do much about any problem unless he actually knows a great deal about it. Read a book like *Men and Resources*, by J. Russell Smith (New York: Harcourt, Brace, and Company). You may be shocked into action by such statements as these from Professor Smith's book: "If we continue to destroy, waste, burn, and throw away valuable things as we have for the last hundred years, the United States cannot be a permanent country. It is even now a shrinking country. . . . Every year the United States has less good land than the year before. . . . Every year the United States has less of useful minerals and less wood than the year before." Then, Professor Smith cites the following shocking facts:

1. Approximately 50,000,000 acres have been essentially destroyed by wind or water erosion and are of no further use for crop production. (This is much greater than the crop area of Japan.)
2. Approximately 125,000,000 acres have lost all or the greater part of the humus-charged topsoil. (This is now in cultivation or in temporary pasture or temporarily idle farm land.)
3. Approximately 100,000,000 acres are headed in the direction of the land under item 2.
4. Man-induced erosion is getting under way in one form or another on

more than 1,000,000,000 acres, more than half of the United States.

Find out what is happening in your own locality. Discuss the matter with the county farm agent. He can tell you whether erosion is taking a heavy toll of soil. Form a group and go together to some place indicated by the farm agent where erosion is taking place and see for yourselves what is happening. Find out then what is being done or what may be done to check erosion.

Consult your local chamber of commerce to determine the extent of waste in other natural resources. Write to the State Land Planning Board at your state capital to see what, if anything, is being done in your state and where you may apply your efforts to have more accomplished.

Make a list of the valuable resources of your community and study the uses which are being made of them. Plan an assembly program "including such features as (1) illustrated talks with slides and movies, (2) dramatic skits on right and wrong use of soil, forests, and picnic places, (3) singing of 'America the Beautiful' or other appropriate songs."

Do what you can in these and other ways to make all conscious of the problem of conservation of natural resources.

PRONUNCIATIONS: Ananda (a-nahn'-dah), Baku (bah-koo'), Dnieper (nee'-per), Dniester (nee'-ster), Fumimaro Konoye (fo-mee-mah'-roe koe-noe'-yeh), Kuban (koo-bahn'-y), Fiorello La Guardia (fyoe-rel'-loe lah gwahr'-dyah), Yosuke Matsuoka (yoe-soo'-keh mat-soo'-oe'-kah), Murmansk (moor-mahn'sk'), Saionji (si'on-jee-i as in ice), Thailand (ti'-lahnd-i as in ice), Trianon (tree-ah-noan'), Versailles (vair-si'-i as in ice), Vladivostok (Vlah-di-vo-stok').

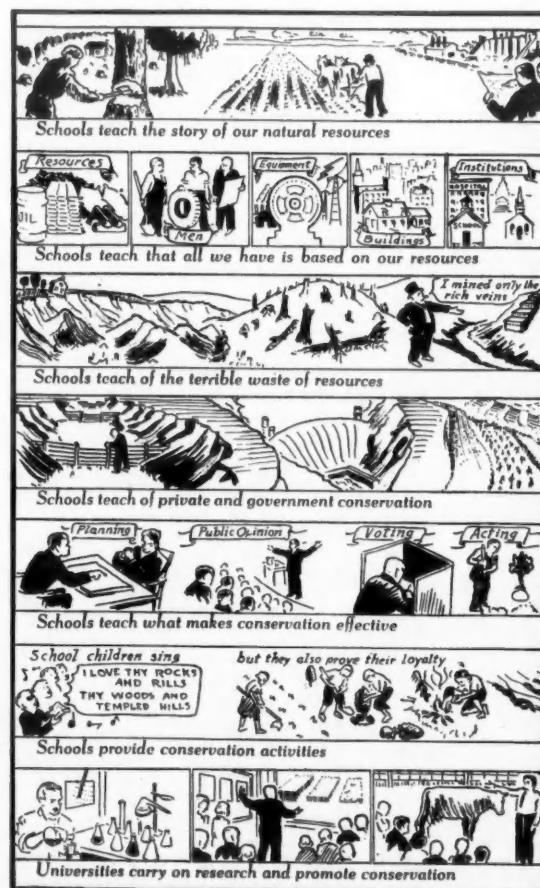
Information Test Answers

American History

1. France.
2. Benjamin Franklin.
3. Georgia.
4. France against England and Spain, 1793.
5. Virginia.
6. Haiti.
7. George Washington.

Geography

1. Mexico.
2. French Guiana.
3. Los Angeles.
4. Venezuela (Lake Maracaibo).
5. New Orleans.
6. Paraguay tea (yerba mate).
7. Quebec.



HOW SCHOOLS SAFEGUARD NATURAL RESOURCES

NEA